

(Words of Assurance) Hear the Good News.
The Lord, our God, is gracious and merciful, slow to anger,
and abounding in steadfast love. (Joel 2:13).
God hears the earnest cries of the repentant and forgives our sins.

HYMN OF PENITENCE *Just As I Am, Without One Plea* No. 357
vs. 1, 2, 3 & 5

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION AND IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*In the United Methodist Church, all who intend to lead a new life in
Jesus Christ are welcome to receive the Ashes & Communion.
Please come at the direction of the pastor to receive first the Ashes,
and then Communion.*

***HYMN OF DEDICATION** *I Surrender All* No. 354

***BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH**

POSTLUDE

*First United Methodist Church
400 South Main Street
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858
989-773-6934 • www.mtpfumc.org*



Ash Wednesday Service

February 14, 2018

We are a Stephen Ministry congregation
Christian Care, Compassion, Listening
— when you need it most.



Ash Wednesday Worship Service February 14, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.

(*) indicates places where those able are invited to stand
Boldface type indicates places for all to join in response;

GATHERING MUSIC

In Silence and Meditation as the prelude is played.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Lent calls us to journey along the edge, to anticipate that final trip to Jerusalem.

People: Lent calls us to the cutting edge, when the wheat falls to the ground and new life comes forth; the cutting of a new covenant.

Leader: Lent calls us not only to give up something, but also to take upon ourselves as community the intention of true participation in the mystery of God-with-us.

People: Lent calls us to corporate penitence, accountability, and preparation.

Leader: Lent calls us to concentrate upon our baptismal vocation to be a sign of the New Earth.

People: Lent calls us to face the darkness without holding a flashlight.

***OPENING HYMN** *Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes* TFWS No. 2138

***GOSPEL LESSON** Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

A TIME OF PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Lord I Want to Be a Christian arr. Hogan

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

MESSAGE

Today Is the Day Pastor Diane Gordon

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

O, God, when we pause to look back at our lives on this Ash Wednesday we realize that we have been weighed in the balance and found wanting.
We have neglected to do good when it was in our power to do so.
We, like believers of old, have pulled down your altars and erected idols crafted in our own image.
We have turned our backs on the poor, choosing instead to criminalize poverty.
We have ignored the cries of the motherless, the fatherless, the widow and the widower choosing instead to turn children and the elderly into the new poor.
We have bankrupted the country with our greed and consumed more than our share of the world's riches.
We have not dealt honorably with our enemies or our friends, and we have feigned a place in the company of the righteous.
Forgive us, O God, for turning sackcloth and ashes into a fashion statement by pursuing form without substance.
Forgive us, O God, for the times we have neglected to provide our children and our world an authentic example of Christianity.
As we begin the journey of these 40 days wash us, O God and we shall be clean
cleanse us, O Lord, and we shall be made whole. Amen.
(Silence)